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## FRANCE REPLIES TO GREAT BRITAIN

On April 10 France sent the following communication to Great Britain:

"The French Government affirms first of all that no doubt can be felt of the loyalty of its attitude. The allies have been constantly informed of its policy. The French Government has always opposed the entry of supplementary German troops into the Ruhr region and has added that the authorization for such an entry must have a counterpart in the occupation of Frankfort and Darmstadt.

"On April 3 its representatives in all the allied capitals informed the governments to which they were accredited (at the same time a copy being sent to the allied representatives in Paris) that Marshal Foch's measures could no longer be postponed. Furthermore, the French Government recalled that the matter concerned the violation of one of the most solemn clauses of the treaty signed by France, and that the German Government had formally recognized that formal authorization, given in advance, was necessary for such a derogation, and that France had the right to ask for territorial guarantees.

"How could the Government of France have been satisfied with the German promise to withdraw the troops when order had been restored? Neither for reparation nor for the delivery of the war-guilty, nor for coal have the allies received the stipulated satisfaction.

"The question could be asked when the British Government, which no doubt has not measured the danger of these systematic violations, would step in the path of concessions. France, in any case, was obliged to say, 'That is enough.'

"The French Government is no less convinced than the English Government of the essential necessities of maintaining unity of the allies for the application of the treaty with Germany. This close concert of France and England appears to France equally indispensable for the equitable solution of the vast problems which are presented at this moment in the world—in Russia, the Baltic, Asia Minor, and all Islam."

The note closes with assurances that the French Government, for the promotion of these ends, declares itself entirely disposed, before acting, to be assured of the consent of the allies in all interallied questions which the execution of the treaty raises.

The text of the sections of the Versailles Treaty under which France assumed authority to act independently of the Allies is as follows:

"Article 42. Germany is forbidden to maintain or construct any fortifications either on the left bank of the Rhine or on the right bank to the west of a line drawn fifty kilometers to the east of the Rhine.

"Article 43. In the area defined above the maintenance and the assembly of armed forces, either permanently or temporarily, and military maneuvers of any kind, as well as the upkeep of all permanent works for mobilization, are in the same way forbidden.

"Article 44. In case Germany violates in any manner whatever the provisions of articles 42 and 43, she shall be regarded as committing a hostile act against the powers signatory of the present treaty and as well calculated to disturb the peace of the world."

## STATUS OF AMERICAN TROOPS

The status of the American troops on the Rhine, numbering on March 26, 726 officers and 16,756 privates, was defined by President Wilson in a communication sent to Congress April 1. He said:

"The American forces in Germany are at present operating under the terms of the original armistice and the subsequent convention prolonging the armistice. After the formation of the Rhineland Commission, the question arose

as to whether its ordinances should govern in the American sector and the representatives of the State Department and the commanding general of the American forces in Germany were instructed as follows:

"This government cannot admit jurisdiction of that commission over portions of Rhenish provinces occupied by the American forces. Consequently, neither you (representatives of the State Department) nor General Allen should issue any ordinances which conflict with or exceed the terms of the armistice, which the department (of state) regards as continuing in force as to the United States. You should, however, maintain the closest touch with the high commission and endeavor in so far as possible to conform administrative régime within territory occupied by American forces to régime adopted by high commission for other portions of occupied territory. There is no objection to your sitting informally with high commission, provided you are requested to do so, nor of continuing your activities, as well as those of your staff, in connection with special committees to handle distribution of coal, etc. Ordinances, orders, regulations, etc., relating to financial and economic matters, including those similar to one adopted by high commission, which it is desired to put into force in territory occupied by American forces should be issued by General Allen as commanding general of American forces in Germany, but only after having first been approved by you. In general, endeavor to cooperate fully with high commission and avoid all friction with that body, while at same time make it perfectly clear that you are still operating under the armistice.

On April 12 the United States issued a statement to the effect that "an informal exchange of advices between the United States and the Allies on the Ruhr Valley decision had taken place, and it is hoped that the *status quo* will be restored without serious lesions."

## CONGRESS AND THE PEACE TREATY

Action of the Executive with respect to the League of Nations Covenant and the Treaty of Peace, since we chronicled last month the Senate's second rejection of the treaty, has been confined to quasi-official statements intimating that any action taken by the House in an effort to terminate war would be blocked by him with a veto if necessary. There also have been reports that the President intends to return the treaty to the Senate; and also rumors that when the House's joint resolution to end the war comes before the Senate it will be the subject of amendments calculated by the Democrats who oppose the measure to make the resolution unpopular, whether the amendments are adopted or rejected.

On the other hand, in the House there has been a serious debate and a very important vote, the meaning of which we comment upon editorially. First approved by a majority of the Foreign Relations Committee of the House, then given a place on the debate list, and finally enacted April 9, the joint resolution was passed in the following form:

Joint resolution terminating the state of war declared to exist April 6, 1917, between the Imperial German Government and the United States, permitting on conditions the resumption of reciprocal trade with Germany, and for other purposes.

Whereas the President of the United States, in the performance of his constitutional duty to give to the Congress information of the state of the Union, has advised the Congress that the war with the Imperial German Government has ended:

*Resolved, etc., That the state of war declared to exist*

between the Imperial German Government and the United States by the joint resolution of Congress approved April 6, 1917, is hereby declared at an end.

SEC. 2. That in the interpretation of any provision relating to the date of the termination of the present war or of the present or existing emergency in any acts of Congress, joint resolutions, or proclamations of the President containing provisions contingent upon the date of the termination of the war or of the present or existing emergency, the date when this resolution becomes effective shall be construed and treated as the date of the termination of the war or of the present or existing emergency, notwithstanding any provision in any act of Congress or joint resolution providing any other mode of determining the date of the termination of the war or of the present or existing emergency.

SEC. 3. That with a view to secure reciprocal trade with the German Government and its nationals, and for this purpose, it is hereby provided that unless within 45 days from the date when this resolution becomes effective the German Government shall duly notify the President of the United States that it has declared a termination of the war with the United States and that it waives and renounces on behalf of itself and its nationals any claim, demand, right, or benefit against the United States or its nationals that it or they would not have had the right to assert had the United States ratified the treaty of Versailles, the President of the United States shall have the power, and it shall be his duty, to proclaim the fact that the German Government has not given the notification hereinbefore mentioned, and thereupon and until the President shall have proclaimed the receipt of such notification commercial intercourse between the United States and Germany and the making of loans or credits and the furnishing of financial assistance or supplies to the German Government or the inhabitants of Germany, directly or indirectly, by the Government or the inhabitants of the United States shall, except with the license of the President, be prohibited.

SEC. 4. That whoever shall willfully violate the foregoing prohibition whenever the same shall be in force shall upon conviction be fined not more than \$10,000, or, if a natural person, imprisoned for not more than two years, or both; and the officer, director, or agent of any corporation who knowingly participates in such violation shall be punished by a like fine, imprisonment, or both, and any property, funds, securities, papers, or other articles or documents, or any vessel, together with her tackle, apparel, furniture, and equipment, concerned in such violation, shall be forfeited to the United States.

SEC. 5. That nothing herein contained shall be construed as a waiver by the United States of any rights, privileges, indemnities, reparations, or advantages to which the United States has become entitled under the terms of the armistice signed November 11, 1918, or which were acquired by or are in the possession of the United States by reason of its participation in the war, or otherwise, and all fines, forfeitures, penalties, and seizures imposed or made by the United States are hereby ratified, confirmed, and maintained.

The vote by which this resolution passed was 242 yeas and 150 nays, two answering "present" and 33 members not voting. With but very few exceptions, both in the debate and in the voting, the alignment was according to party lines, the Republicans voting for and the Democrats against the resolution.

On April 12 the resolution was received by the Senate, and was referred to the Foreign Relations Committee without discussion. It will be ten days at least, probably, before the resolution is reported out.

On April 14 Senator McCumber, of North Dakota, introduced a resolution to be substituted for the House resolution. It provides for trade with Germany, but makes no reference to the treaty and would be no bar to its ratification. It reflects the attitude of the "mild reservationists."

## WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM

The annual meeting of the American section of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, in session in Chicago, April 23-24, has been discussing important details of reconstruction of its administrative machinery, revision of its constitution, choice of headquarters, and the employment of a salaried executive. A report of its deliberations we will publish next month. In the official call for this gathering it was stated:

In 1915 we declared that as women we desired to serve this great cause of just and permanent peace because "as women we felt a peculiar revolt against the cruelty and waste of war"; and although we would not prolong the segregated efforts of the sexes for social ends we felt that we women, so long ignored in all choices that made war, might strengthen each other best for protest and effort if we could have an inner circle of devotion of our very own in the many-sided international movement.

Today, in 1920, the fruits of "collective homicide" are before us. The ruthless sacrifice of life, of health, of treasure, of childhood asset of the future generations, of the feeling of human brotherhood, and the will to live at peace with all men—these are beyond any loss the most frightful dream could picture.

And in our own land the reactionary influences hold us back at once from any adequate relief of the world's misery and from any effective reorganization of the forces of normal life to prevent a continuance of war and preparation for future war.

More than this, we are suffering from hysterical fear and suspicion, one class of another, that lead to denial of the constitutional rights of free speech, free press, and free assembly, that lead to cruel and senseless raids and deportations, and that threaten the inmost defenses of our democratic ideals. We, therefore, lack the guidance of that many-sided truth that "above all things, in open struggle with error, always beareth away the victory." We are on the verge of a presidential campaign. We have millions of new voters among the women of this land. We have great bodies of organized womanhood already pledged to philanthropic effort, to educational advance, to better labor conditions, to full legal rights of women and the saving of child life, and to a finer political method and spirit of action. All that these women are pledged to accomplish may be nullified in a moment when men are set to kill one another by wholesale as the most sacred of duties.

Unless the women now invested with full power and responsibility of citizenship can rise to the supreme need of the hour, the need for clear thinking and fearless speaking concerning these ordered ways of legal and political, of commercial and industrial, of educational and social organization of world interests to the end of just and permanent peace, they are building upon the sand.

However strong a hold the "mysticism of militarism" still has upon the common imagination, those who have suffered most during these last years have learned that we must not have another world war. They understand that we must end the fragments of little wars that still further ravage desolate and bankrupt nations. We all are convinced that we must learn a better way of living and working together. Men and women in comradeship must find and make straight that way. But women—women of all races and peoples—may well for a while at least work somewhat by themselves until they become strong and commanding in their power of motherhood to declare that this obsolete legalizing of human slaughter must be outgrown.

The program of this section of this international organization, as defined by the executive board at its meeting in New York, March 4, 1920, was as follows:

1. Fight the world famine (a) by philanthropic contributions and government loans; (b) by spreading information concerning the lamentable conditions in starving Europe.